

To all those concerned:

I have been an XM radio listener for over two years now and have found it to be both a tool and source of pleasure being an over the road truck driver. And the addition of the traffic and weather channels for various cities is one of the most valuable tools that could have been incorporated in the XM lineup.

I can plan ahead not only to avoid being delayed by weather or traffic conditions but also avoid being a contributing factor for delays caused by such. The plus side of this is faster cleanup and renewal of traffic flow if caused by an accident or less congestion if by weather. This allows me not only to service my customers better but also to avoid contributing to more pollution by idling during the wait.

As a satellite dish subscriber I can see the similarities between this effort and the one concerning access to broadcast channels which resulted in spot beam transmissions. But there is a broad difference in relation to the advertisers, which was the focal point with the satellite television debate. We in the transportation industry can use the information garnered by the XM radio channels to plan around incidents long before we are within range of the local broadcast region and hence the tool part of this sets in. We avoid the problem before we are part of it.

I sincerely hope that common sense and a genuine concern for safety takes precedence over what seems to be nothing more than a control ploy on the part of the NAB. XM radio is at the time a small player in regard to the overall market but they have already garnered the ire of the NAB and I hope that these folks do not take away a very useful tool that we in the transportation industry use daily.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views on this important issue.